लुधियाना में टेलीफोन कनैक्शन

792. **श्री मोहिन्दर सिंह कल्याण:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पंजाब राज्य के लुधियाना जिले में 1994-95, 1995-96 तथा 1996-97 के दौरान अब तक कितने टेलीफोन कनैक्शन दिए गये हैं;

(ख) 30 जून, 1997 तक उक्त जिले में कुल कितने आवेदक प्रतीक्षा सूची में थे; और

(ग) उक्त प्रतीक्षा सूची को कब तक समाप्त कर दिए जाने की संभावना है?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) पंजाब राज्य के लुधियाना जिले में प्रदान किए गए टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों की संख्या इस प्रकार हैं:-

1994-95	31,731
1995-96	23,783
1996-97	36,110
1997-98	8,932

(31.10.97 की स्थिति के अनुसार)

(ख) 30.6.97 की स्थिति के अनुसार उक्त जिले में प्रतीक्षा सूची में आवेदकों की सुख्या 37,320 थी।

(ग) निम्नलिखित के दौरान प्रतीक्षा सूची का निपटान हो जाने की संभावना है:-

(i) शहरी क्षेत्रों में मार्च 1999 के अंत तक

तथा

(ii) ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में मार्च 2000 के अंत तक बशर्ते कि आवश्यक संसाधन समय पर उपलब्ध हों।

Direct Lines to Basic Service Operators

793. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication is expected to provide 20 million direct exchange lines by the basic service operators during the next ten years in addition to 47 million direct exchange lines that it would be provided as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 4th Noverber, 1997;

(b) how much investment on Telecom expansion would be needed in the next five years including for introduction of new services such as Internet; and

(c) whether the three day Asia-Pacific-Telecom trade and finance colloquium held recently in New Delhi provided DoT an excellent platform for exchange of views on all aspects of telecommunication services; if so, what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 9th five year plan proposals of Department of Telecommunications submitted to Planning Commission for approval envisages an expenditure of Rs. 83250 crores during 9th five year plan (1997-2002) for expansion of Telecom Network including introduction of new services.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Three day Asia and Pacific Trade and Finance Colleoquium, held in New Delhi provided DoT and excellent platform for exchange of views on all aspects of telecommunications especially related to trade, finance and investment in telecom sector.

After detailed deliberations on various aspects the views that emerged are summarised as under:

(i) there is a need to evolve an effective regulatory framework in the region to ensure customer interests keeping pace with the recent rapid development of network and services and the growing number of operators.

(ii) there is a need to synergise sustainable development of telecom network with telecom manufacturing infrastructure and technologies suitable to the Asia Pacific Region.

(iii) an integrated approach needs to be evolved towards universal access and rural telecommunications in particular for the region.

Apart from above many good models on investment and financing in telecommunications were discussed.

Non-Payment of Annual Licence Fee by the Cellular Phone Services Provides

794. SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Will the Minister

of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Celluar Phone Service Providers have failed to pay the annual licence fee due from them seeking a moratorium of two years;

(b) if so, whether Government are likely to accede to their request; and

(c) if so, on what grounds?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Majority of the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Providers have paid their Annual Licence Fee on schedule. However, some Cellular Service Providers have asked for postponement of Payment of licence fees. A request seeking moratorium of two years on payment of licence fee has been received from the Cellular Operators Association of India, New Delhi. Some Operators have made such a request to their individual capacity also.

(b) No such policy decision has been taken.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Private Sector Participation in Internet Services

795. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering gamut of issues surrounding the internet-policy in India and formulate appropriate guidelines pertaining to private sector participation in internet services;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal received by Government from Private Sector Internet Service Providers and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the present status of the decision taken in this regard; and

(d) by when a final decision is likely to be taken and the details of the action plan for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have taken a decision in the first week of November, 1997, to allow Private Sector participation in Internet Services. Various issues relating to such a participation have been sorted out. Detailed guidelines and licensing conditions are being finalised.

(b) A large number of Private parties have shown interest in becoming Internet Service providers (ISPs). They will be invited to set up Internet Access Networks as soon as the detailed guidelines and licensing conditions are finalised.

(c) and (d) As per (a) and (b) above.

AMS-PG seats for outsiders

796. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post-graduation seats in hospitals and institutions under Army Medical Serivces (AMS) are primarily meant for PG students of AMS;

(b) if so, whether a number of PG seats were given to outside non-AMS students, during 1993 onward; if so, the stream-wise seats so given to outsiders, year-wise, and the reasons therefor, indicating the in-service applicants stream-wise who were deprived of the opportunities; and

(c) the rules of guidelines governing allocation of such PG-study, opportunity in the AMS hospitals and institutions indicating the provisions for interservices allocation and for offering opportunities to outsides?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, PG seats which are not availed of by the service personnel are offered to other categories like foreign sponsored candidates, ex-SSC officers, locally posted officers and, lastly, if any seat remains they are offered to Civilian Doctors. Thus, no in-service applicants are deprived of the opportunity.

(c) All Post Graduate seats in the Service Institutions are allotted strictly on the basis of merit-cum choice following a Central PG entrance examination. Service officers who, on study leave, join AFMC, Pune, for super specialisation, however, do not have to go through a written test for admission. AFMS service personnel have prior claim to all the PG seats depending upon the service requirements.